

A General Survey of Important Matters.

(An address delivered by Dr. H. D. Stewart before the Woman's Club of Monroe, March 8, 1916.)

Ladies of the Woman's Club of Monroe:—I am glad to have this opportunity to address you on some topics of vital concern. I observe that all those present here this afternoon are married women. Some things I shall discuss should be heard by every girl that is old enough and intelligent enough to use wisely the information to be furnished.

The Woman's Club is the greatest body that has ever been organized in Monroe, as future events will prove. It was not meant for fun. It is not a social club. It is not a leisure club, nor a good-time club. It was organized for business, for work, and for the various features and phases of community development.

The more time one devotes to pleasure and to pastimes, the less he contributes to the real running of the world. The great secret of successful community building is co-operation. The only way we can get some people to co-operate with us is to co-operate with them. Get them started along right lines and then join them. It is much easier to lead people than it is to drive them. The human mind is naturally rebellious. We must devote ourselves unselfishly to the common welfare. We cannot operate for good through selfish eyes, with selfish hands, and selfish hearts. We cannot live unto ourselves; we must secure all our blessings through the community route. He who attempts to benefit himself by injuring others, or by injuring his community, always curses himself. This is a divine law as well as a natural consequence.

Most Men Mean Well.

We must let self sink out of sight, and in its stead, breathe forth that generous spirit of service to others, which always measures one's real value to his community. The Woman's Club has not heretofore received the encouragement it deserves from the men as well as from the women. There are those who are disposed to class you as notoriety-seekers, suffragists, women who do not know what else to do, and various other uncomplimentary things. Pay no attention to this. The devil will always fight back at first. Corner him. Those who have done wrong never like to be told about it. Run down all public abuses and bring them to light. Then you will have public opinion. No reform was ever launched, no great progressive measures ever carried through without public opinion. Don't let this deter you. Be sure you are right, then go ahead. Don't give up the ship. Most men mean well. You can explain most opposition to progress with the word ignorance written in large bold type.

The Woman's Club of Monroe should have 300 members. Go after them. Every doctor's wife, every preacher's wife, every lawyer's wife, every teacher's wife, every business man's wife should be a member. You can get them and use them in community building. You can do anything you try to do.

Bury the Hatchets.

I deplore the fact of the lack of co-operation in this community. I am very sorry indeed that there are some women in this town who do not like some other women; that here are some members of the church—Christian ladies, if you please, who will not even speak to each other. The same is true of some of the men. This is not Christ-like. I am afraid St. Peter will not know just how to admit both factions because one side is bound to be wrong. And maybe, both are in the wrong.

All hatchets should be buried on earth and not before the gates of hell. We should never oppose a good thing because some one we do not like has proposed it. This is extremely aggravated littleness. We should not oppose another because he is in the same profession, business or occupation. Why not co-operate with him for the good of us all? A good way to become friendly and remain friendly is to work together for the common good.

We cannot benefit ourselves without first benefitting our community. Keep that in mind, will you?

Men have always first spoken lightly of women reformers and women community builders.

Men say women are great joiners. They join every club that is organized. They like to get their names in the Monroe papers, and the Charlotte papers. You need pay no attention to people who make fun. They are a necessary part of every community. The Lord made them—I reckon He did. You can explain their attitude with the words "ignorance and prejudice."

Community building or civic welfare may be conveniently divided for discussion into seven heads:

- (1) The home; (2) the government; (3) the church; (4) the schools; (5) the roads and streets; (6) the social life; (7) the business life.

All these are inter-dependent and no one of the seven can secure the best development and expression without all the others.

The home is the earliest form of government known to history. You can travel through any country on earth and correctly judge the true status of that country by the moral and physical, and intellectual development of the homes.

Every home that can should have a music and art room, a library and reading room, a gymnasium, a domestic department, a living room and sleeping room. When a family can not have these advantages of happy community home life, the municipality should furnish them in as far as it is possible to do so.

Each home should have good music; works of art on the walls; quotations and mottoes on the walls—all of these help to make lasting impressions on the young mind in the formative period of life.

Every boy and every girl at the right age and the right time should be given a room in the home, to be

called his or her room. It should be kept tidy and in order and he should be encouraged to take a pride in his home.

Certain principles of character should be grounded into every child by its parents. The child should be taught that it is wrong to steal; that it is wrong and injurious to self, mother, father and all to appropriate to one's own use that which rightfully and naturally belongs to others, whether it be riches, personal property, reality, honor, deserved credit, position or place. The child should be constantly reminded that it is not right to lie, to deceive, to disappoint, to strike one that is down, to kick one that is downward bound, to laugh at the misfortunes of others, to encourage evil tendencies.

The child should be taught to help the weak; not to impose on others, whether they be kin-folks, friends or bitter enemies.

All children should be taught to work and to produce more than they consume. Children must be made to respect age, womanhood and serious sacred things. They must be required to behave in public places; to obey and respect teachers. Every boy should raise his hat to teachers, ladies, old people and worthy individuals in high places.

Teach the boy what it is to be a gentleman and the girl what it means to be a lady.

The boy and the girl should be taught to render help to those in trouble; to lift up those who are down; to be a friend to those who are friendless and ready to give up the struggle.

The mysteries of life should be taught and wisely taught the boys and the girls in the right manner, at the right time by the proper persons. Children should be taught not to waste time and money—not to be sluggards nor spendthrifts—

"Count that day lost,
Whose low descending sun
Views from thy hand
No worthy action done."

The Government

The form of government will largely determine the welfare and the happiness of the people of any country. The republic is the best for humanity as a whole. Absolute monarchies, limited monarchies, oligarchies and plutocracies are all a curse to humanity.

May the good Lord soon deliver all the people of the earth from the secured reigns of selfish monarchs, from the greed, the lust for power, and the wicked rule of ungodly sovereigns and crooked politicians. The ideal form of government is the democracy, which means the rule of the people. It is ideal for the municipality, the county, the state, or the nation. Politicians and grafters are the curse of our government.

The greatest evil in every city government is green-horns and grafters. The greenhorn in office will waste thousands of dollars of public funds. The grafter will steal all he can. It is to the interest of every city to keep green-horns and grafters out of office. Every city in the world has its old grafters who are constantly and continually planning some way to get a stealthy hand into the public treasury. Let's tear clear of the two g's.

Every government must seek two things—efficiency in public service and economy in operation. The current expenses must be carefully watched. Public buying and selling must be done by an expert market man. Public utilities and public improvements must be conducted by honest, trained experts who can and will do the right thing at the right time. Every government must avoid the two g's—green-horns and grafters, and seek the two e's—efficiency and economy.

The Part of the Church in Community Building

May the good Lord deliver us from any community where there is no church. Our lives would be taken by robbers. God is the only power and the church the only agency that can deliver us from the demons of greed, lust, desire, hate and envy. The church is a safeguard and a safety valve against destruction. There is always hope for the man who goes to church.

Every father should take his children to Sunday school and to preaching every Sunday in the year.

I am not much of a denominationalist. Some people let denominationalism loom greater in their religious life than they do Christianity. The one should never be substituted for the other. All Christian denominations should work together for the common good and against the common enemy. The greatest good of denominations is competition or righteous rivalry in building up the cause of Christ on earth. It is very useful in this. The denominations spur each other to greater effort in saving humanity.

Competition is the life of trade, the life of accommodation and the life of religious work.

Schools as Community Builders.

It is a horrible calamity to be devoid of useful knowledge. Schools are right next to our homes. It is here that one must be prepared for life.

It is a sin to tamper with the destiny of a child. Teaching is a serious, solemn business. It should always be a profession rather than an occupation.

No one should be allowed to teach as a pastime or to collect spending money on which to dress or to have a good time. Teachers should be required to follow the profession not less than five years. They should be required to take the best magazines on teaching as well as on science and literature. They should be paid more money and then be required to earn more. Some teachers are underpaid and some are over-paid. We need schools of pedagogy and all teachers should be required to attend them. Many teachers right here in Union

county ought to be in school themselves all the year around.

We need a teachers' library and a teacher's reading room in every community, rural or urban.

Our own county ought to have the best educated, the best trained, the best equipped and the best qualified superintendent of education to be found anywhere in the United States—even if he costs us five thousand dollars a year. Even at this figure he would pay 1000 per cent in community dividends.

In Union county there are more than seven hundred men (mostly young men, too) and probably a thousand women who cannot read and write. Can't even read reading! This is a sad state of affairs. They are in prison; they are blind and cannot see.

Cannot the Woman's Club undertake to establish special schools for these people?

Night schools, lectures, letters. They could be taught to read, spell, write and count.

Some of the greatest men, even some of our United States Presidents, learned to read and write after they reached twenty-one years.

All our schools should have lectures, music and other educational advantages.

Schools and politics should be kept apart. Efficiency should be the watchword.

School boards should consider it their conscientious duty to find teachers that can fill jobs, rather than to find jobs for friends, kin-folks or members of their church.

No school can secure the best results without the intelligent, unselfish co-operation of parents and teachers.

Roads and Streets.

No community can make rapid progress without good roads.

In order that farm products may have the best market value and the farmer secure the greatest profit there must be easy access to good markets.

Good roads lower the cost of marketing; enhance the value of land; bring school communities, church communities and social life closer together.

Daily mail can be had. It is easier to keep in touch with the outside world. Distance is annulled and everybody becomes our neighbor.

Roadbuilding is the work of engineers and experts. It cannot be entrusted to green-horns. The result will always inevitably be much money wasted and still no roads.

There are too many branch line roads throughout the county and too few well constructed highways.

Permanent roads should be built. Our city streets and pavements should be second only to our homes and yards in beauty.

All construction of paving should be permanent. It should be durable, beautiful and useful.

The Social Life as a Community Builder.

Our social life should be based on standards of purity, honesty and general upright living.

There should be no double standard. The woman who has fallen is just as good as the fallen man. She should not be rejected; she should be lifted up.

The attitude of the woman who is still standing has not been what it should be toward her fallen sister. There has been a disposition to throw them on out and to kick them on down. Many of these women are absolutely crushed until they are hardened by sin, cigarettes, whiskey and evil associations. The time to reclaim them is in the first stage. In later days they see no light; they have no hope. They feel the personality of an outcast. Many of them at times long for deliverance. No creature is too low to lift up. Any human being on earth is good enough to speak to.

I fear that some good people are too afraid of contamination. There is a deplorable tendency of members of many churches and in many social gatherings to group themselves into classes of supposed difference of social standing. All should mingle and greet each other. Then co-operation will be easier to secure.

There are clubs and clubs. It is hard to keep up with 'em. I have known women to organize a new club just to get to leave out or to slight some one they didn't like or wanted to get rid of.

I am now going to talk to you briefly on "The Social Diseases."

Gonorrhea.

It is said that almost 75 per cent of the married women that go to hospitals for treatment or for operations have to go because they have been infected by their husbands with gonorrhea. The conditions are alarming.

A young fellow infected with gonorrhea, against the advice or over the protest of his physician, marries a young lady of the community. She may be your daughter, your sister or mine. She is the picture of health. She is ignorant. She little suspects that the fellow who professes to love her and promises to keep her in sickness and in health is about to ruin her for life.

It is my opinion that the doctor or the family physician should call a halt right here.

Many women have been killed by their husbands.

It is said that as high as 25 to 60 per cent of blind people (of whom there are half a million in the United States), were rendered blind by gonorrhea of the eyes when they were new-born babes. The husband infected the wife and mother and the mother the baby's eyes. The doctor failed to cure or prevent.

Then these blind people marry and 60 per cent of their children are born with hereditary blindness.

Syphilis is the Great Black Plague. It has many obscure manifestations. It causes aneurism, paralysis, blindness, insanity, dementia and mental defects in the children and many other evil effects. A friend of mine has just told me about the case of a noble young woman that married a syphilitic. He was rich and belonged to a prominent family in a Southern city. She married him for wealth and family name and social position. He infected her with syphilis. Within two years she died a terrible death.

You would be astonished to know the truth about some social tragedies that have been enacted right here in Monroe.

It is alarming how many people have syphilis. It is claimed that 75 per cent of the negroes and many white people have it.

I am candidly of the opinion that marriage should be denied to the fellow who cannot show a clean bill of health. It should be denied to the confirmed, uncurable, syphilitic, to the chronic gonorrhoic, to the epileptic, to the habitual drunkard, to the mental defective, to the insane; to anybody with any incurable disease of mind, body or moral nature.

The right to marry should be denied to pseudomanics, nymphomaniacs, kleptomanias, pyromaniacs, monomaniacs and to just everyday ordinary Union county or North Carolina Anglo-Saxon maniacs.

The applicant for a marriage license should be required to furnish the Registrar of Deeds a certificate of health and fitness from three reputable physicians. One physician would not do because there are some who would swear to a lie for ten dollars, but you could scarcely find three such culpable medical men of our county seat.

The Business Life in Community Building.

In order that any community or any municipality may develop rapidly and make progress he had the business men must co-operate. They are the ones who control the finances. They must work together to secure railroads, manufacturing enterprises and the best class of settlers.

We need more educated people in Monroe and Union county. The standard of intelligence is too low. The intelligence of the average citizen is too low.

Our business men can build up our community where others might fail. We don't have enough educated farmers. Isn't it a pity that every educated man has to go to the city—to become a "professor" or a lawyer or something else?

It is necessary for the individuals of every community to give attention to the business of making a living. Occupation, vocation, earning capacity, living expenses, book-keeping should be taught to children.

There are two vital ideas that must forever hold each other in restraint.

Business without the controlling, softening influence of sentiment, will run riot. Business without sentiment will run to greed, graft, extortion and uncontrollable, insatiable desire for gain. It takes a healthy, informed, educated public sentiment to keep the few from plundering the wealth of the many.

Business alone will go to the devil. Sentiment alone will starve to death. They must work together.

Heretofore the men have furnished all the business and the women the saving sentiment.

Sentiment alone cannot progress. It cannot develop.

Purify, sickly sentiment must not be allowed to interfere with the best business methods.

Every married lady should keep an itemized list of the possessions in her home, of monthly expenditures, of receipts, of the family income; and she should take stock once a year. Live within your income.

Every farmer ought to keep books and take stock once a year. Otherwise he is groping in business darkness and uncertainty.

Monroe Needs

An auditorium that could comfortably contain the entire population of 7000. A lot can be leased; the woman's club can borrow the money from the bank; the auditorium can be built and soon paid for from the proceeds of public entertainments. We could all meet there and have a great time. It would be a great place for mass-meetings, hand-shakings, get-acquainted meetings, public discussions, music and general public welfare meetings. This auditorium is going to be an accomplished fact within three years.

Monroe needs a public market place owned and controlled by the city, with stalls or sections to rent. All who sell vegetables, meats and fruits should be required to occupy it. There should be rigid inspection of the sanitary conditions and of the meats, vegetables and fruits. They should all be screened against flies, rodents, dust, human handling, etc.

Monroe should have a public park, with music and band concerts.

We need also a Home Talent League for music, speaking and other entertainment.

I scarcely know what is going to become of us if we don't soon get an up-to-date hotel and a good hospital.

Encouragement.

Now let me offer a few words of encouragement to you ladies in closing.

You have a perfect right to engage in any part of community building because it all affects you and your family and your home. Women are going to have to run the world. They are going to have to do men's work.

It is said that in some states of our own union there are two women to every man and about two girl babies are being born to every boy baby. This means that many thou-

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sands more girls are going to have to look out for themselves. What is to become of all these girls and women?

Wicked men are using them up in various ways for commercial purposes. Our cities are full of pimps and procurers. All these should be caught and executed.

Hundreds of thousands of girls are being sweated to death by so-called captains of industry. They receive barely enough wage to merely exist.

Women should receive the same pay for the same work that men do. Low wages, poverty and overproduction of girls make cheap girls. Is it any wonder thousands are destroyed soul and body every year? In their struggle for existence they fall an easy prey to the lust of wicked men.

The fellow who will take advantage of a girl's youth, her ignorance or poverty, to violate her chastity, must be a monster of frightful men.

Yes, in defense of themselves and the home, women are going to have to take up the gauntlet. I believe the principle of woman suffrage is right call with one accord applauded. I don't like suffragettes and voting maniacs, but it seems right that women should vote out human evils in the body politic, the body social and the body ecclesiastical and thereby wield a restraining influence over the riotous greed, desire and passions of men.

In the seven states where they have woman suffrage you will find the greatest moral, physical and intellectual progress.

No real strong argument has ever been offered against woman suffrage. All the liquor sellers, gamblers, criminals politicians and other crooks in the United States are opposed to it. This is enough to convince me that it is right. It destroys the business of these crooks.

Of the many thousands of men who constitute the ratio of male to female population tens of thousands are diseased beyond the hope of cure or are otherwise unfit to marry.

Many other men are too lazy to make a living for a wife and children.

Sometime ago I read a short record of some charity cases.

Case No. 1. The father, an old man, an invalid, cannot work. The mother has a babe in arms and five other children. Now what business did this woman have with a babe in arms with an old invalid father? Too much unrestricted social liberty. Just so long as unit people are allowed to marry so long will there be a surplus of state, county or family dependents. Nearly every family has its mental defective, its invalid or its criminal.

But women, naturally love children, even if it be only a dear little idiot or other unfortunate. The mother love is all the greater for these.

It often happens now that an ambitious woman seeks a man, raises her family, builds a home, supports the no-account daddy and the children and is happy. She is worth her weight in gold, even if she does seem unwise. She loves this animal because he is the father of her children. After the daddy has treated her worse than a dog she will follow him to the court house, the jail or the gallows and will place flowers on his grave.

Such are the faith and the faithfulness of woman. So strongly does motherhood cement a mother's love, though the male parent's responsibility seems to have ended with mere physical fatherhood.

Stick and Go Forward.

I say to you good women, "Stick together and go forward."

There are many good things you can secure for our community. Don't be afraid to take action in matters of vital concern.

Investigate present day evils, public abuses, etc., expose them and root them out.

Those who insist on doing wrong will always fight back when their wrongdoing is exposed.

Remonstrations or requests will move some people; demand will move some others; for some others nothing but violent assault will do.

If you find anything wrong with your school system; if you find inefficiency, ignorance, wastefulness or graft in your city government, publish it—show it up. If you discover that merchants are selling cigarettes to minors, indict them.

We need a good strong public lecture in Monroe once a month. A public debate on vital issues every three months would be a great thing for our city.

I trust you will insistently invite every preacher, every doctor, every lawyer, every editor, every educator and every prominent business man in the city to address you. You can make community builders out of all these.


Some things you will need are a good community library of about twenty-five volumes; a good magazine or two on each important phase of community life. Every woman in town should be urged to go to your reading room and inform herself. I tell you there is nothing like it. If you thoroughly prepare yourselves, you will get results. Nothing can hold you back.

Don't be afraid of making anybody mad. Some people will stay mad whether you bother them or not. They were born mad; they never have a smile. The only way to get some people to do a righteous act is to provoke them. They will get mad, do something useful, and are afterwards pleased with their own accomplishment.

I bid you all God-speed toward making this the best community in the world.

BOWEL COMPLAINTS IN INDIA.

In a lecture at one of the Des Moines, Iowa, churches a missionary from India told of going into the interior of India, where he was taken sick, that he had a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy with him and believed that it saved his life. This remedy is used successfully in India both as a preventive and cure for cholera. You know from this that it can be depended upon for the milder forms of bowel complaint that occur in this country. Obtainable everywhere.



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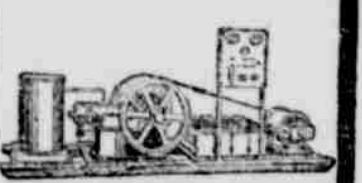
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